

Application No. 10/644,993
Amendment dated August 6, 2007
Reply to Office Action of May 4, 2007

Docket No.: 0941-0815P

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-10, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19-22 and 26-34 are now present in this application.

Claims 1, 7 and 14 have been amended, claims 23-25 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 33 and 34 have been presented. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Objection to the Claims

Claim 14 stands objected to for an informality. In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this informality has been addressed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of any objection to the claims are respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 USC 102 and 103

Claims 1-3, 7-9 and 21-23 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Lindeman, U.S. Publication 2003/0078069. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 5, 6, 10, 13 and 20 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Lindeman. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Examiner considers claims 14, 16, 17, 19, 20 and 26-33 to be allowable, and claims 24 and 25 to contain allowable subject matter. Without conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejections, but simply to expedite prosecution of this application, it is noted that limitations from objected-to but allowable claims 24 and 25 have been incorporated into independent claims 1 and 7, respectively. Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 7, as well as their dependent claims, should now be in condition for allowance.

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Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC 102 and 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: August 6, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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